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STABILITY IN KEY AREAS (SIKA)-WEST

WEEKLY BULLET POINTS NO: 146
JAN 27- FEB 2, 2015



The District Social Worker, The SIKA-West Engineer And M&E Personnel Conducted A Joint Project Site Visit To Inspect Progress On A 63-Meter Flood Protection Wall And 63-Meter Gabion Mattress Project In Lak Lak Khana Village, Kushk-E Rabat Sangi District.

February 4, 2015

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK (FARAH/GHOR/BADGHIS/HERAT):

- The Farah Gender Working Group (GWG) Economic Sub-Committee successfully advocated for provision of job opportunities for women in Farah Province. As a result of the Economic Sub-Committee efforts, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Amini, who is the Municipality Administrative Manager and a businessman, allocated 20 of his shops in Farah Center for women to sell their textile products. The GWG, the Department of Women's Affairs and the Chambers of Commerce and Industries are working to identify women textile producers.
- The Ghor Female Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) successfully addressed an inheritance dispute between two brothers (A & B) in Kaasi village in Chaghcharan who had been in conflict for over seven years. This conflict has led to prevention of the brothers' children from marrying each other. Brother A's daughter was in love with brother B's son and were about to flee because of the dispute. The CRC and the community elders organized mediation sessions with the conflicting parties and convinced the brothers to agree on an equal distribution of their father's estate and allow their children to marry.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department distributed 150 copies of the Farah Service Providers Catalogues (SPC) and 3000 informational cards to the Education Department and the Provincial Council. The SPCs will be disseminated to Farah school teachers and students to help find potential third party donors to address their community major problems.



Ms. Mah Gul, one of the students taking the driving license test in Farah Province.

As of the reporting date, 20 out of 70 women who attended the driving course in Farah Province successfully passed the driving test and obtained their driving license. The GWG and DOWA collaboratively lobbied with the Traffic Department to organize driving training sessions for women. Further updates for the remaining students will be provided in the coming weeks. *"Now that I have a driving license, I can drive to work, be on time and help the patients,"* Ms. Mah Gol, a Community Health Worker and one of the driving license holder said.

SIKA-WEST RESULTS:**Grants & Subcontracts Programming**

- CDCs & DDAs currently are implementing 217 projects valued at USD\$5,256,336, which will improve the lives of approximately 1,027,621 people.
- CDCs & DDAs completed 251 projects valued at USD\$4,304,769. The completed projects improved the lives of approximately 488,265 people.
- Currently, 67 projects valued at USD\$ 753,441 are under development.
- 19 CDC milestone payments totaling USD\$86,944 were processed in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi, Qala-i-Naw, Pashtun Zarghun and Muqur, supporting IDLG & MRRD-led grant funded solutions to community grievances.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Building:

- The Community Development Department provided Technical Training to Foremen and Supervisors of 12 CDCs in Pashtun Zarghun and 4 CDCs in Kohsan District. Topics included milestone payments schedules, drawings, technical specifications and project timeframes.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Clinic organized an anti-addiction information session attended by 15 people on January 31. The participants were informed about the dangers of drug addiction and encouraged them to introduce drug addicts to the Clinic for treatment.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Pashtun Zarghun and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi Municipality Departments each organized an information session on how to get a "Business Permit." The discussion outlined the steps to be taken when preparing to set up or register a business.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Monitoring and Evaluation training was provided to nine Chaghcharan, Lash Wa Juwayn and Qadis MRRD District Social Workers and District Government Personnel. This training focused on Project Site Photography, Measurement Tools and Report Writing to improve the capacity of government staff to conduct independent project site inspections.
- DSWs, Government Officials, SIKA-West Engineers and M&E Personnel conducted 89 project site visits. These visits yielded deficiencies that were in need of correction; e.g. the Kabotar Qal CDC in Kushk-e Rabat Sangi was advised to use crushed stones instead of river stones for their flood protection wall project, or the next milestone payment will not be authorized.
- The M&E Department will upload the recently approved Weekly Bullet Points and the Monthly Reports into the USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse on February 9, 2015.

FARAH PROVINCE

- A five-day Conflict Management and Legal Awareness training was kicked off for 40 members of the Lash Wa Juwayn Tribal Conflict Resolution Committee on January 31. Topics included analyzing conflicts and methods of conflict resolution/mediation which will be employed in government-led efforts to address conflicts within the region.
- The DRRD District Social Worker in Farah Center, Mr. Niyaz Mohammad, conducted a project site visit to inspect progress on a six culvert construction project in Tahsildar Village, Farah Center on February 2. No deficiency was observed at the project site and the CDC was advised to continue their work based on the project specifications. Once completed, the culverts will improve access for 715 families to the Provincial Center and neighboring villages.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

- On January 27, the Gender Mainstreaming Unit organized a 'Lessons Learned and Coordination Workshop' with participation of the DOWA Director, the Provincial Government Technical & Sectorial Specialist, the DRRD Program Manager, the Muqur District Revenue Manager and the Qadis and Muqur Conflict Resolution Committees' Heads. The participants evaluated the SIKA-West gender activities in Qadis, Muqur and Qala-i-Naw and discussed transition of the program. The participants highlighted that now women have more involvement in social and political activities. *"At the beginning women did not want to attend the Komite Sobate Wolesswali, with support from the Gender Mainstreaming Unit, now women eagerly attend the KSW and discuss their concerns and advocate for their needs,"* stated the DRRD Program Manager.
- With support from the Governance Department, the Qadis District Agriculture Department provided 'Orchard Extension' training focusing on sapling planting techniques to 15 farmers on February 1. Farmers learned proper techniques of sapling planting and management.

HERAT PROVINCE

- In-line with the IDLG District Governance Training Plan, a 'Work Plan Development' Workshop was conducted in Kohsan District for 12 government personnel on January 28. Covering developing annual work plan, strategic planning and procurement planning, this workshop is designed to improve the performance of government personnel in their administrative functions.
- The DRRD District Social Worker, the SIKA-West Engineer and M&E Personnel conducted a joint project site visit to inspect progress on a 63-meter Flood Protection Wall and 63-meter gabion mattress project in Lak Lak Khana village, Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District on February 2. It was observed that the CDC used river stones instead of crushed stones. The implementing CDC was advised to use crushed stones. Once completed, the flood protection wall will safeguard 400 Jeribs of farmland from being flooded.

GHOR PROVINCE

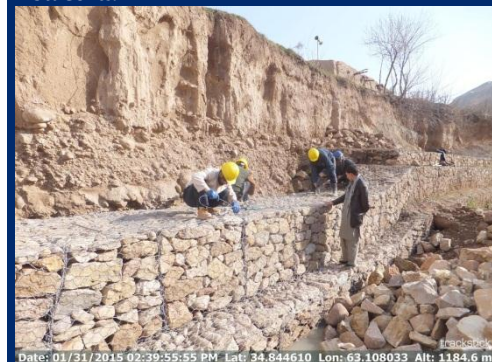
- The Ghor Deputy Provincial Governor, the DOWA Director, the PGO Gender Specialist, the DRRD Social Development Manager and the DRRD DSW evaluated the impact of the SIKA-West gender activities. The DOWA Director highlighted that the Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) was successful in addressing familial conflicts. She pledged to support the CRC and the Gender Working Group after the SIKA-West program ends. The Ghor Deputy



Date: 02/02/2015 10:20:43 AM Lat: 32.401383 Lon: 62.156180 Alt: 2174.2 ft
The District Social Worker In Farah Center, Mr. Niyaz Mohammad, Conducted A Project Site Visit To Inspect Progress On A Six Culvert Construction Project In Tahsildar Village, Farah Center.



Date: 02/02/2015 11:50:24 AM Lat: 32.356053 Lon: 62.104727 Alt: 2166.3 ft
The Qala Mohammad CDC Constructing A 139-Meter Surrounding Wall And Concrete Sidewalk For Qala Mohammad Secondary School In Farah Center: Expected To Provide Safe Educational Environment For 600 Students.



Date: 01/31/2015 02:39:55 PM Lat: 34.844610 Lon: 63.108033 Alt: 1184.6 m
The Bal Ghor CDC Constructing A 90-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall , Qala-I-Naw. Once Completed, 20 Jeribs Of Farmland And The Herat-Qala-I-Naw Road Will Be Safeguarded From Being Flooded.



Date: 02/01/2015 11:49:57 AM Lat: 35.080657 Lon: 63.259467 Alt: 2949.8 ft
The Zad Naser CDC Completed 70% Work Of A 60-Meter Flood Protection Wall Construction Project In Muqur District: Expected To Safeguard 125 Houses And 40 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.

Provincial Governor noted that the GWG created a network between the organizations interested in gender-related activities.

CHALLENGES

- SIKA-West suspended activities for four projects in Farah Center due to reports of low quality issues with the projects. SIKA-West is sending a team to visit the projects to ascertain their current status and recommend appropriate action.
- Due to the current cold weather, all projects in Du Layna, Shahrak, Chaghcharan and Kushk Rabat-e Sangi, two projects in Guzara and 12 projects in Pashtun Zarghun are still suspended until winter conditions pass. Projects are expected to resume on March 1.

WHAT'S NEXT

- The Community Development Department will provide Project Management Training to Rabat Suliman CDC in Guzara. After successfully completing this PMT, the first round of milestones will be paid enabling the CDC to start their water supply network.
- The Governance Department will hand over the Farah Center, Shindand, Pashtun Zarghun, Qadis and Qala-i-Naw Komite Sobate Wolesswalis to the respective District Governors between February 4-9, 2015.
- The Governance Department will organize a two-day 'Procurement & Financial Management' training to 24 Qadis and Kushk-e Rabat Sangi District Government staff.
- The Governance Department will organize 'Work Plan Development' training to 12 Pashtun Zarghun District Government staff.
- The Communications & Public Outreach Department will conduct focus group discussions to evaluate the impact of the SIKA-West communications activities in Pusht-e Rod, Qala-i-Naw, Muqur and Shindand Districts.



The Raees Sharaf Payeen CDC Constructing A 50-Meter Gabion Flood Protection Wall In Qala-I-Naw: Expected To Safeguard 268 Houses And 30 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.



The Tai Kham CDC Rehabilitating 1.8-KM Road And Constructing Three Culverts In Tai Kham Village, Kohsan: Expected To Improve Access For 715 Families To The District Center.



The Gaym CDC Constructing A 121-Meter Surrounding Wall For The Saffron Processing Center In Pashtun Zarghun: Expected To Provide Safe Environment For 100 Women Working At The Processing Center.



The Manzel Ahmady CDC Completed 74% Work Of A 320-Meter Flood Protection Wall Including 120-Meter Gabion Mattress In Aab Garmak Village, Shindand District: Expected To Safeguard 1700 Jeribs Of Farmland From Being Flooded.